

**Idaho Fish and Game Commission  
Special Meeting  
March 8, 2006  
Fish and Game Headquarters  
Boise, Idaho**

A special meeting of the Idaho Fish and Game Commission was held by telephone conference. The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman Wayne Wright at 8:03 a.m. with Commissioners Gibbs, Irby, and Power participating.

Present in the Director's Office were Director Steve Huffaker, Legislative Liaison Sharon Kiefer, Deputy Attorney General Dallas Burkhalter, Communications Bureau Chief Roger Fuhrman, and Executive Assistant Marilyn Whitney.

Sharon Kiefer updated the Commission on pending legislation. A written update on developments from February 14 through March 3 was sent via email to Commissioners.

- HCR 38 in support of the Idaho Birding Trail passed the House.
- SB 1386 and 1387 the companion bills addressing statute of limitations issues are currently in the amending order due to a technical error in the numbering of paragraphs.
- HB523 to give the Commission authority to implement a surcharge for a bonus points system passed the House.
- HB640 which is a technical cleanup of 36-112 on the Animal Damage Control Fund passed the House.
- SB 1258 to allow the Department to issue one fishing permit to cover all residents of a state long-term care facility passed the Senate and is in House for 3<sup>rd</sup> reading.
- SB1266 to provide recreational liability immunity for private airstrip was amended and passed the Senate.
- SB596 on furbearer rules has passed the House.
- SB1385 the bill which would redefine eligibility for disability license has passed the Senate and was in the House Resources and Conservation Committee yesterday. It received a unanimous "do pass" to go to House floor.
- SB 1391 which allows the Department to provide free license and tags for children with life threatening illness has passed the Senate and passed the House Resources Committee with a unanimous "do pass" to go to the House floor.

The Senate Resources and Environment Committee will take up the two bills affecting the Department's license fees this afternoon. SB1283 to reduce senior license fees and SB 1420 a companion bill that takes a broader approach to reduce senior license fees and increase other

Department license and tag fees by rounding to next dollar will be discussed. Staff has prepared testimony on SB 1420 based on the information on the analysis sheet prepared and given to the Commission last week.

Support for 1420 does not appear to be strong on either side of the floor. This creates an atmosphere that may result in further “tweaking” of the bill. The Director commented that staff will be at the Committee meeting to answer questions and point out that these bills have been brought forward without public input from sportsmen and that the Department would prefer to do business with sportsmen before the Legislature takes any action on the Department’s fee structure. The Commission did vote to oppose SB 1420, and the Department will testify against the bill. The message will include the fact that the Commission and Department don’t believe this is timely legislation. The Department may need to bring fee legislation next year to cover CEC and this proposal would cloud the future.

Commissioners discussed whether they should have representation at this afternoon’s Committee meeting. Commissioners agreed that if the bill does pass the Senate, it still has to go to the House and there would be another opportunity for the Commission to have representation at the Statehouse. The Director commented that he believes Senators Williams, Burtenshaw, Little, Pierce, and Brandt will probably decide the issue in the Senate Committee. Ms. Kiefer and the Director have heard that the bill is likely to run into trouble in the House Resource and Conservation Committee if it gets that far.

Ms. Kiefer reported that on Monday Senator Schroeder introduced a Senate Resolution to encourage the Commission to conduct the LAP program in a specific manner. The Committee discussed it and the RS was held and not printed. Senator Schroeder advised the Committee that he would take a year to think about it and talk to the public and landowners and then potentially bring it back next year. Commissioners agreed that this gives impetus to the Commission to come up with a good plan. The Magic Valley pilot program for Access Yes is moving ahead.

Commissioner Wright asked about the letter to Dale Bosworth regarding the Forest Service’s denial of the Department request to land helicopters in wilderness to collar wolves. The Director indicated the letter was faxed to Mr. Bosworth and Idaho’s Congressional delegation in Washington DC and a hard copy was sent to the Congressmen’s local offices.

Regarding the wolf management proposal for the Lolo Zone, the Director reported that the Governor’s office agrees with the Commission’s position. Commissioner Irby commented that Jeff Allen at OSC was optimistic on the proposal. The issue is still getting attention in the media.

Commissioner Irby reported that former Magic Valley Commissioner Fred Wood will be running for Bruce Newcomb’s position in the House. Commissioner Gibbs reported that former Upper Snake Commissioner Jeff Siddoway is filing to run for Don Burtenshaw’s seat.

The meeting adjourned at 8:22 a.m.